

# Chickens at Wonderland 2014

## FAQs

### **Q: Why do we want Chickens on our campus?**

A: Connect our kids to the natural world.

To provide a hands-on, multi-sensory curriculum that allows children from kindergarten through fifth grade to increase their understanding of science and their connection to nature. During garden class, children can feed insects and grass to the chickens, talk about their role in the ecosystem, and witness the chickens laying eggs. It is a lesson in life cycles and ecosystems. This fully contained coop will house 3 hens. The learning garden next to the coop will serve as an outdoor science/nature lab.

A: Teach our children where our food comes from.

In the interest in knowing where our food comes from and concerns for what we put in their bodies. Raising your own food can be a healthier, greener way to eat. Animals raised on “factory farms” are often exposed to food additives, antibiotics, hormones, and even pesticides. But if you raise your own animals, you have control over what they eat. And the distance the food travels from animal to plate is no further than from back yard to back door, so there’s no environmental impact due to transportation.

A: Project Based Learning

Wonderland's first Project Based Learning began last year. We are in our second year of Garden Project Based Learning with the 5th Grade Garden Project.

### **Q: What is Project Based Learning?**

A: Project-based learning is a dynamic approach to teaching in which students explore real-world problems and challenges. Collaborating and interacting in a team environment, students work to resolve problems through learning and using knowledge from an array of disciplines. With this type of active and engaged learning, students are inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they are studying. A project based learning method is a comprehensive approach to instruction. Your students participate in projects and practice an interdisciplinary array of skills from math, language arts, fine arts, geography, science, and technology.

"The collaborative nature of the investigation enhances all of these valuable experiences ... as well as promotes a greater appreciation for social responsibility (Scott, 1994)."

**Q: Where are the chicks from?**

A: The chicks are from 'Dare to Dream' an approved farm for cleanliness from zoonotic diseases. Only CDC approved farms, who undergo a certification process, and are allowed to sell chicks.

**Q: Is the Coop within distance guidelines for buildings?**

A: Yes. According to guidelines, a chicken Coop shall be no closer than 35 feet to any structure inhabited by someone other than the Wonderland Chicken custodians, or keeper, according to Los Angeles Chicken Coop Laws and no closer than 20 feet from school buildings.

**Q: What about airborne diseases?**

A: There are NO airborne diseases possible from chickens at this time.

**Q: Does the Coop meet with LAUSD approval?**

A: We are working closely with LAUSD Maintenance and Operations to ensure that the coop meets all LAUSD requirements.

**Q: What happens to chicks on School Breaks/Summers?**

A: Chicks will be cared for by volunteer families and Garden teacher during Summer and Breaks.

**Q: Who is paying for the coop, chickens, feed & care?**

A: Private donations have funded our Chicken Coop project.

## **Q: What are the Rules and Regulations for Chickens on Campus?**

A: Twelve Guidelines:

- 1) No male chickens (roosters).
- 2) No chickens will run at large in school yard. All chickens must be contained within the 'Wonderland Outdoor Nature Learning Yard' or Within completely contained 6' x 12' Coop/Run.
- 3) The three chickens will be provided with a covered, predator-proof chicken house (with cement floor) that is thoroughly ventilated, of sufficient size to admit free movement of the chickens. The chicken egg/roosting house(coop) is adjacent to and provides free access to the chicken 'Run' enclosure.
- 4) Chickens shall be secured within the Coop/Run enclosure from sunset to sunrise.
- 5) Chicken Coop/Run will be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, and will be cleaned on a regular basis so as to prevent offensive odors and waste.
- 6) Chickens shall have continuous access to adequate food and water. Watering system will be provided through drip system to prevent stagnant water sources. Food will be raised and will be completely contained in rodent proof housing.
- 7) Stored feed will be kept in a rodent- and predator-proof container.
- 8) Chickens shall be maintained in a healthy condition. All chickens shall either receive appropriate medical care by veterinarian.
- 9) Chicken Coop shall be no closer than 35 feet to any structure inhabited by someone other than the Wonderland Chicken custodians, or keeper, according to Los Angeles Chicken Coop Laws and no closer than 20 feet from school buildings.
- 10) No chicken shall be kept in a manner so as to create noxious odors or noise of a loud, persistent and habitual nature.
- 11) In full keeping with the Los Angeles California Chicken Ordinance, chickens are allowed in schoolyards/backyards with no permit required.

The coop restrictions are as followed:

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(b)-No person shall keep any rabbit, hare, chicken, rooster, gamecock, turkey, guinea hen, peacock, goose, duck, pheasant or other fowl (except pigeons) closer than the following distances:

1. Within 20 feet of the dwelling or residence of the owner of said animals or poultry.

2. Within 35 feet of any other dwelling, residence or living quarters provided that any crowing rooster, gamecock, turkey, guineahen, peacock, goose, duck or other fowl capable of loud crowing or like noise, shall not be kept within 100 feet of any dwelling, residence or living quarters of persons other than their owner.

The code does not specify a limit on how many chickens and roosters one can keep, so as long as you have space, you have free reign.

12) In full keeping LAUSD Chicken Coop rules, regulations, and traditions, chickens/chicken coops are allowed.

**Q: Will the chickens be at risk from predators?**

A: The chicken coop and surrounding fence have been designed with specific intention including:

- \* Maintain a predator free zone by incorporating totally enclosed coop (complete with cement foundation to prevent digging animals from entering) surrounded by a fence enclosure.
- \* Cleanliness and easy maintenance
- \* The coop itself is 6x12 feet to allow chickens plenty of room to roam about freely during the day.

**Q: What happens to the eggs?**

A: Eggs will be given away to volunteers.

**Q: What are the potential health risks and sanitation concerns for on-site Wonderland Avenue Chicken Coop:**

A: All animals, from crustaceans to humans, are hosts, both inside and out, to multitudes of bacteria and viruses. Kept in check they actually keep us *healthy*. Some bacteria even do essential body processes. For example, goats need bacteria in their guts to digest grass. New research shows that even the so-called “bad bacteria” have important roles to play. It’s when things get out of balance that health issues occur.

The chickens in our Coop will carry around their share of germs and it’s prudent to worry about whether we can get sick from them. The quick answer is that there are very few diseases that humans and birds share. Our biologies are just too different. That said, there are a small number of pathogens to know about, all of which can be neutralized by hand washing and good animal husbandry. The truly scary diseases are not coming from

the backyard flock, they're coming from animal factories farms. Overcrowded factory production facilities that rely on antibiotics to keep their animals alive are creating "superbugs" that are resistant to drugs.

There will be a hand sanitizer/washing station near the Coop/Run on the Outdoor Nature Learning Yard. All students handling the hens or in the yard will be required to wash before leaving the area. Only having three birds and washing of hands = SAFE.

**Q: What happens when a chick is sick?**

A: When a chick is sick, they will be separated from the flock and cared for by a Veterinarian.

**Q: Are there ZOOBOTIC disease that we need to worry about?**

A: This is what we all need to know about poultry and zoonotic diseases:

The biggest fear that many have is of Bird Flu. In North America we don't have to worry about this. We've never had a case of AVIAN INFLUENZA here. For those in other parts of the world, it appears as if actually coming down with the disease requires close contact with the dead bird (such as when people stripped the feathers off of deceased swans.) In Asia, avian influenza shows up in people who are living in close contact with large numbers of birds, usually waterfowl, not chickens.

Another disease that you might have heard is zoonotic (transmissible from animal to human) is Newcastle Disease. In chickens it causes respiratory ailments. Transmitted to humans it triggers mild conjunctivitis, but even this is usually only seen in people who administer the Newcastle vaccine to poultry, or are lab workers who do necropsies. Two other zoonotic diseases are erysipelas and chlamydiosis, which are mostly hosted by turkeys, and only affect humans who work in slaughterhouses, and farmers of large flocks. Avian Tuberculosis is another one that is quite rare (it's more prevalent with parrot fanciers) but possible to contract.

Internal and external parasites are species specific and as nasty as lice and worms look, they're not going to infect your gut if you somehow ingest them.

Another popular fear is the three bacterial pathogens Salmonella spp., Complyobacter spp., and E. Coli. Generally, people get sickened by these bugs after eating improperly cooked and handled meat and eggs that have been contaminated with the germs, not by handling live and healthy chickens. But, simply washing your hands after holding your hens is enough to prevent disease transmission. Our chicks have come from a small

farm in Lompoc, CA, Dare 2 Dream Farms. They guarantee the health of our chickens. They are vaccinated for Marek's and Mycoplasma, and raised in a biosecure environment to ensure their optimal health.

**The coop will be kept in well-ventilated, well-lit area and will be cleaned weekly and sanitized frequently.**

**Q: Who is on the committee for Chickens at Wonderland?**

A:

- 1) Gabrielle Walther  
Master Gardener, University of Connecticut  
A.S. Horticulture, UConn/Pierce College  
Coordinator of Wonderland Garden Classroom/Chicken Coop  
FTGU Garden Instructor  
Chicken Coop Management
  
- 2) Kate Carone  
  
FTGU Coordinator / Advisor to Wonderland Chicken Coop/Garden Classroom Curriculum/Program Development
  
- 3) Dr. Kay Wisely, DVM, CVA  
Agriculture/Husbandry Advisor to Wonderland Chicken Coop/Garden Classroom  
Currently employed as Small Animal Veterinarian, Sherman Oaks, CA  
Graduate - Doctorate, University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Graduate - Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics, St. Olaf College  
Prior relevant experience Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota, Avian and Exotics Medicine  
Member - Los Angeles Urban Chicken Enthusiasts, Backyard Chicken.com Forum  
Granddaughter - of Louisa Oppedal-Larson of Norway, Chicken Farmer, Salmon Fisherwoman  
Childhood - farm raised.

**Q: Who will provide daily/monthly/yearly care for the Chickens?**

A: Committee of select Parents/Teachers/Students/Garden Volunteers. They're much easier than dogs: no walking, no twice-daily feeding, no baths, no grooming. With the proper housing they're a very low-maintenance pet: Daily: egg collection and closing the coop if you've let them out. As necessary: fill feed and water

containers. Couple times a week: clean up the obvious chicken poop around to help keep flies & parasites to a minimum. Weekly: change bedding and remove that free fertilizer (poop) so it can be put to good use! Twice a year: a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the coop.

A: On a larger scale, create a "Team Wonderland Chicken," a collective of families in a neighborhood working together to care for a coop. Keeping egg-laying hens is not as stressful or daunting as some imagine it might be. There is a commitment of some time and cost, as with any animal, but chickens require approximately the same maintenance as an indoor cat. They need a safe, dry place to live, fresh water and a calcium-rich diet. In our garden, they will be great pest removers - they love snails and slugs- and will provide us with rich manure, and NUTRITIOUS eggs.